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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/737,185	12/17/2003	Shigemi Uehara	024629-00010	5548

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EXAMINER	
IWARERE, OLUSEYE	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
4127	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
10/31/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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IPMatters@arentfox.com
Patent_Mail@arentfox.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/737,185	UEHARA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Oluseye Iwarere	4127	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *17 December 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-4* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-4* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *17 December 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *04/06/2004*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is a first Office Action Non-Final rejection on the merits. Claims 1 – 4, as originally filed, are currently pending and have been considered below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. **Claims 1 – 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Painter et al. (2005/0,187,834).**

As per claim 1, Painter et al. discloses, a shipping-management system that is a shipping-management system that manages direct shipping of shipping directly from the parts manufacturer to the ordering source according to a part order for repair parts from said ordering source to the brand manufacturer and comprising:

a management-information-memory unit that stores inventory information, order information and non-allocated information ([0036]; via orders 166, as well as order updates, are stored in an Orders Database 188, as shown by the lines 190 and 192) ([0063]; via the parts inventory 136 table and orders table 188 (FIG. 3) are stored in a

persistent storage device, such as a plurality of disk arrays 336, hosted by the database servers 330 and 332);

an allocation-process unit that performs an allocation process for the inventory according to said part order from said ordering source ([0034]; in response to the receipt of the parts location data, the requesting dealership or buyer, by way of its web browser 132, can perform one or more order operations, which are transmitted to the Order Operations subsystem 158 by way of the web interface 152 over the communication channel 134),

and stores said repair parts, which are registered in said inventory information, in said management-information-memory unit as said order information ([0034]; via the requesting dealership, by way of its web browser 132, may execute various order operations, such as: select supplier; prepare and submit a purchase order to a selected supplier; and cancel the order),

and stores said repair parts, which are not registered in said inventory information, in said management-information-memory unit as said non-allocated information ([0055]; via inventory data may be gathered by an extraction or managed private access provider and stored in the Parts Inventory Database 136);

an order-information-extraction unit that, at a preset order time, extracts unsent said order information that is stored in said management-information-memory unit and sends it to said parts manufacturer ([0033]; via an Inventory Extraction Application 140, which may be integrated with the DMS 130, is used to extract inventory data from each of the dealerships, connected to the on-line parts location and transaction system 100

and transfers it to the parts inventory database 136 on a periodic basis);

a non-allocated-information-extraction unit that, at a preset non-allocated-transmission time, extracts said non-allocated information that is stored in said management-information-memory unit and sends it to said parts manufacturer ([0033]; via the Extraction Service Application 140 transfers the inventory data to a Part Inventory Processing application 138, hosted by the on-line parts location and transaction system 100, by way of a public or private communication channel 148, in order to update the Parts Inventory Database 136 on a periodic basis, for example, once a day or once a week as indicated by the line 150); and

an inventory-setting unit that stores the inventory of the parts manufacturer in the management-information-memory unit as inventory information ([0032]; via a Parts Inventory Database 136 is maintained by the on-line parts location and transaction system 100, which maintains a current parts inventory of all of the automobile dealerships and/or collision repair shops, connected to the on-line parts location and transaction system 100).

As per claim 2, Painter et al. further discloses a re-allocation-process unit that, from among said repair parts loaded in the warehouse inventory of said parts manufacturer, stores said repair parts, which are stored in said management-information-memory unit as said non-allocated information, in said management-information-memory unit as order information ([0029]; via on-line parts location and

transaction system 100 is initiated in step 116 when a dealership or collision repair shop generates a work order in which vehicle parts are required).

As per claim 3, Painter et al. discloses, a shipping-management method of this invention that is a shipping-management method that manages direct shipping of shipping directly from the parts manufacturer to the ordering source according to a part order for repair parts from said ordering source to the brand manufacturer ([0025]; is accessible via integration into the legacy DMS system to enable any required vehicle parts to be ordered and supplied by any of the various members in the network, directly from the DMS software application) and

stores in memory the inventory of the parts manufacturer as inventory information ([0036]; via orders 166, as well as order updates, are stored in an Orders Database 188, as shown by the lines 190 and 192);

performs allocation for the inventory according to said part order from said ordering source ([0034]; via response to the receipt of the parts location data, the requesting dealership or buyer, by way of its web browser 132, can perform one or more order operations, which are transmitted to the Order Operations subsystem 158 by way of the web interface 152 over the communication channel 134),

and stores in memory said repair parts, which are stored as said inventory information, as said order information, ([0063]; via the parts inventory 136 table and orders table 188 (FIG. 3) are stored in a persistent storage device, such as a plurality of disk arrays 336, hosted by the database servers 330 and 332);

and stores in memory said repair parts that are not stored as said inventory information as said non-allocated information ([0055]; via inventory data may be gathered by an extraction or managed private access provider and stored in the Parts Inventory Database 136);

extracts at a preset order time unsent said order information that is stored and sends it to said parts ([0033]; via the Extraction Service Application 140 transfers the inventory data to a Part Inventory Processing application 138, hosted by the on-line parts location and transaction system 100, by way of a public or private communication channel 148, in order to update the Parts Inventory Database 136 on a periodic basis, for example, once a day or once a week as indicated by the line 150); and

extracts at a preset non-allocated-transmission time said non-allocated information that is stored and sends it to said parts manufacturer ([0032]; via a Parts Inventory Database 136 is maintained by the on-line parts location and transaction system 100, which maintains a current parts inventory of all of the automobile dealerships and/or collision repair shops, connected to the on-line parts location and transaction system 100).

As per claim 4, Painter et al. discloses, wherein of said repair parts that are loaded in the warehouse inventory of said parts manufacturer, said repair parts that are stored as said non-allocated information are stored as order information ([0025]; via the on-line parts location and transaction system 100 provides a virtual inventory of vehicle parts, that in one embodiment, is accessible via integration into the legacy DMS system

to enable any required vehicle parts to be ordered and supplied by any of the various members in the network, directly from the DMS software application).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Lucas et al. (2007/0,239,569), which discloses systems and methods for managing assets, Gill et al. (2007/0,124,221), which discloses a method and system for metadata normalization, association and registration for digital content, Itoi et al. (2007/0,124,221), which discloses a system and method of assisting goods collection and recording medium, Lucas (2007/0,055,586), which discloses Computer program product, system and methods for tracking supply chain items, Godlewski (2007/0,050,272), which discloses systems and methods for purchasing, invoicing and distributing items, Waddington et al. (2004/0,054,607), which discloses a distribution system, Scheer (2002/0,143,669), which discloses a method for managing inventory within an integrated supply chain and Peterson (2002/0,082,956), which discloses electronic information network for inventory control and transfer.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Oluseye Iwarere whose telephone number is (571) 270-5112. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday 7:30am to 5 (EDT).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynda Jasmin can be reached on (571) 272-3033. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

OI

10/25/07

LYNDA JASMIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER